

[19th August 1925]

A.—The Government are not sure to what the hon. Member refers. The outlet to the Periyar lake has recently been improved, and some of the channels are being remodelled. The question how best to use any surplus water available when these works are finished will then be considered.

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—“Sir, there is a printer’s devil in clause (a); ‘Satur hills’ must be ‘Sethur hills’. May I ask the hon. Member to answer the question in the light of the correction made?”

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“The answer was not affected by the devil in the question.” (Laughter.)

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—“May I have a specific answer to the question whether there has been any project to bring this water to the plains of Srivilliputtur and Sattur taluks?”

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“Not so far as I am aware; but the question will be considered by me.”

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—“May we have some information regarding the condition of the Periyar dam? We saw some alarming reports in the papers.”

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“On receipt of the information which has been referred to by the hon. Member the Raja of Ramnad, steps were taken to have the site inspected and it was found that the report was baseless and I may say that the report was so inaccurate that it provoked a great deal of discontent and alarm not only here but everywhere on the part of people who had estates in the locality concerned. We made expert enquiries and found that there was absolutely no basis for any theory or suggestion that the Periyar dam was in danger.”

Mr. T. ADINABAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“Is it a fact that a sum of Rs. 1 lakh and odd was set apart for the repairs of this dam which was supposed to be in danger?”

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“Not so far as I am aware, Sir.”

Utilisation of water in the Arjuna river.

* 140 Q.—Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether there was any proposal to start a co-operative society in order to utilize the water in the Arjuna river from Watrap hills, Ramnad district, for wet cultivation by re-building an old anicut;

(b) whether there was any investigation into the matter by the Public Works Department; and

(c) if so, the result of the investigation?

A.—(a) Yes: a proposal was made by the Assistant Registrar, Tinnevelly, and the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, in February 1923,

(b) & (c) A scheme for the purpose was already under the consideration of the Public Works Department but on investigation, the

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Executive Engineer reported that the site was unsuitable for an adequate reservoir and also that the construction of an anicut for direct irrigation would not be feasible as there was no perennial supply in the river.

Protection by Government of certain lands within the reaches of flood in the river Kolladam.

* 141 Q.—Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have taken steps to purchase about 40 houses and 30 acres of nanja and punja lands in Ahagara Elathur village, Tanjore district, which are within the reaches of flood in the river Kolladam;

(b) if not, whether they have taken necessary steps to build a bund to protect the people and their lands; and

(c) if not, whether any other remedy is under the contemplation of the Government?

A.—The answer is in the negative.

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR: “Sir, am I then to understand that the Government are not willing to protect the people of these villages?”

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—“As will appear from the notification in the Gazette, dated 25th October 1924, proposals are already on foot for acquiring land required for the formation of a new flood bank.”

Major and minor irrigation works in the Ceded districts.

* 142 Q.—Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO: Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to ascertain and state—

(a) the number of minor and major irrigation works in each of the Ceded districts—

- (1) in charge of the Public Works Department;
- (2) in charge of the Revenue Department;

(b) the expenditure incurred on them in 1923–24 for repairs;

(c) the amount allotted for each of the districts for 1924–25 and 1925–26 for their repairs; and

(d) the number of such works under each category in each of the said districts, which are in need of repairs and for which no provision is made and the probable amount required for the purpose?

A.—(a) to (c) A statement showing the particulars asked for as far as available is furnished.*

(d) The information is not available.

Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO:—“With reference to clause (d), may I ask the hon. the Law Member to collect the information and place it before the Irrigation Committee before the Committee closes its business?”

* Printed as Appendix XI on page 271 infra.